

What is a handbook change?

Handbook changes serve as an interim notice of important program and benefit changes that take place between editions of the CHAMPVA handbook.

What should I do with this handbook change?

Please make note of the following changes in your handbook. We also suggest you file this notification with your 2002 CHAMPVA handbook.

What specific changes have occurred since the release of the 2002 CHAMPVA handbook?

1 Page 8, Widow(er), Remarriage:

Eligibility for CHAMPVA ends at midnight on the date of remarriage if the widow(er) remarries prior to age 55. Previously, CHAMPVA benefits terminated for all widow(er)s when they remarried, regardless of the age of the widow(er). The Veterans Benefit Act of 2002, Public Law 107-330, authorizes the VA to provide benefits, effective February 4, 2003, to a CHAMPVA-qualifying widow(er) who remarries at age 55 or older.

2 Page 21, General Medical Services, What is NOT covered:

The fourth bullet, "biofeedback treatment," indicates that biofeedback is not covered for urinary incontinence. Benefits now *include* biofeedback for urinary incontinence.

3 Page 36, Preventive Health Care, Immunization:

Additional Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommended vaccinations are shown in the charts on the next page. Your physician will advise you if it is appropriate for you or your child to have these immunizations based on CDC recommendations and other specific factors. Recommended ages for the vaccines are noted in the charts. Catch-up immunizations should be done during any visit when feasible. The additional CDC recommendations are:

Pneumococcal vaccine. Recommended for all children age 2-23 months. It is also recommended for certain children age 24-59 months.

Influenza vaccine. Influenza vaccine is recommended annually for children age 6 months and older with certain risk factors (including but not limited to asthma, cardiac disease, sickle cell disease, HIV, diabetes) as determined medically appropriate.

Hepatitis A vaccine. Hepatitis A vaccine is recommended for use in selected states and regions, and for certain high-risk groups; consult your local health authority.

RECOMMENDED IMMUNIZATION SCHEDULES

Age → Vaccine ↓	Birth	1 mo	2 mos	4 mos	6 mos	12 mos	15 mos	18 mos	24 mos	4-6 yrs	11- 12 yrs	14- 17 yrs
Hepatitis B												
B1	X	X	X									
B2		X	X	X								
B3					X	X	X				X	
Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis			X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Haemophilus influenza type b			X	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Inactivated Polio			X	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Measles, Mumps, Rubella						X	X			X	X	X
Varicella						X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Pneumococcal			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hepatitis A									X	X	X	X
Influenza					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Age → Vaccine ↓	18-24 yrs	25-64 yrs	65+yrs
Influenza	X	X	X
Pneumococcal	X	X	X
Measles	X	X	
Mumps	X	X	
Rubella	X	X	
Varicella	X	X	X
Tetanus/Diphtheria (Td)	X	X	X
Polio	X	X	
Hepatitis B4	X	X	X
Hepatitis A	X	X	X

4 Page 36, Preventive Health Care, What IS covered:

Genetic testing for sickle cell anemia has been added as a covered benefit.

5 Page 50, CHAMPVA and Medicare:

The chart lists the 2002 Medicare copayments for hospital stays and skilled nursing facility care. The Medicare copayment amount changed in 2003 as follows:

Hospital stays, 1-60 days	\$840
Hospital stays, 61-90 days	\$210
Hospital stays, 91-150 days	\$420
Skilled nursing facilities, 21-100 days	\$105

6 Page 53, Supplemental Health Insurance (SI):

The second paragraph in that section states, "Further information can be obtained from the Federal Times at www.champva.com." The site listed is no longer associated with the Federal Times or Federal Publishing that provides information regarding supplemental health insurance. The Federal Publishing site at www.federalpublishing.com does provide information about CHAMPVA supplemental policies.

7 Page 63, CHAMPVA Fact Sheet Guide:

Add CHAMPVA Fact Sheet Number 03-1, *Remarriage After Age 55*.

How do I get more information?

- Check our web site at WWW.VA.GOV/HAC, select CHAMPVA
- Write us at P.O. Box 65023 Denver, CO 80206-9023
- E-mail us at HAC.INQ@MED.VA.GOV
- Call 1-800-733-8387, Monday-Friday from 8:15 AM - 6:00 PM Eastern Time.